AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

We Claim:

1. (Currently amended) Method for analyzing the presence of a bacterial pathogen in a clinical sample comprising the steps of:

[[-]] at least partially isolating nucleic acid from said sample, characterized in that said nucleic acid is selected from a group consisting of either total nucleic acid, total DNA or total RNA,

[[-]] quantifying the amount of nucleic acid comprising a preselected sequence which is specific for said bacterial pathogen, wherein said step of quantifying the amount of said nucleic acid is performed by means of amplification which is monitored in real time by means of a hybridization probe, further comprising the step of monitoring temperature dependence of hybridization, and

determining whether said amount of nucleic acid comprising a preselected sequence which is specific for said bacterial pathogen exceeds a first predetermined cut off value,

wherein said amount of nucleic acid is indicative of the presence of said bacterial pathogen if it exceeds said first predetermined cut off value, and said temperature dependence of hybridization is indicative of the presence of a group of predetermined species of said bacterial pathogen.

2. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~claim1,~~ further comprising:

[[-]] determining whether said amount of nucleic acid comprising a preselected sequence which is specific for said pathogen is less than ~~remains under~~ a second predetermined cut off value which is less than said first predetermined cut off value, wherein said amount of nucleic acid is indicative of the absence of said bacterial pathogen if it is less than said second predetermined cut off value.

3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~claims 1 to 2~~,
wherein said step of quantifying the amount of said nucleic acid is performed by means of ~~amplification, preferably by means of a~~ Polymerase Chain Reaction, ~~and most preferably by means of a Polymerase Chain Reaction~~ which is monitored in real time.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~claims 1 to 4,~~
wherein said clinical sample is whole blood.

6. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~claims 1 to 5,~~
wherein said ~~specific~~ bacterial pathogen is selected from a group consisting of Coagulase negative Staphylococci and Enterococci.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).